

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating the administration of a subsidiary account comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a request from a parent for a subsidiary account, said parent identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account associated with the parent, the parent account having a parent spending power;
 - establishing a subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity wherein said subsidiary account is configured to consume at least part of said spending capacity to facilitate payment for a transaction;
 - reducing said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity; and
 - establishing at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed per transaction.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed per day.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed during a predetermined time period.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular merchant.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular chain of merchants.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular industry type.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said spending limit is configured for modifying a spending capacity so as to affect a maximum transaction amount allowed in accordance with a predetermined rate of change over time.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said request is received via a means for communication selected from the group consisting of telephone, pager, computer, digital communications device, television, personal digital assistant, and facsimile machine.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring spending activity facilitated by at least one of a parent card account and one or more subsidiary card accounts; and
modifying at least one of said parent spending power and said subsidiary spending capacity based at least in part on said spending activity.

11. A system for administering a subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity; the system comprising an account administrator in communication with a transaction administrator, a settler, and a statement generator; the account administrator configured to receive a request from a parent having a parent account and to facilitate the establishment of one or more subsidiary account and to establish at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity, the transaction administrator configured to facilitate transactions consuming said subsidiary spending capacity, the settler configured to facilitate providing a settling payment to a merchant, the statement generator configured to facilitate generating a parent account statement.